RG104 entry 217 box 2

Copy

Mint of the United States,

Philadelphia, May 2. 1867

Sir,

Under an authorization of the Secretary of the Treasury, I hereby agree to purchase one of the Hill Engraving Machines, at the price named by you - Seven hundred and fifty pounds sterling.

The merits of this machine were brought to the notice of the Mint, incidentally, in a letter of A. W. Field Esq. Queen's Assayer in the Royal Mint, about five years ago; but we were not then in a position to bargain for it.

I understand from your letter that we can have a machine which was begun for Calcutta, & is nearly finished; this would shorten the delay, & be very agreeable.

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As soon as the machine is ready to be shipped, you will please advise me of that fact, & a Bill of Exchange for the amount will be forwarded. And if, on the faith of this Government, you will forward the machine as soon as it is ready, it will be a saving of time.

I wish to know, whether it can be worked by an experienced Engraver simply by written directions, or whether it is essential to have the presence of the inventor, or some one taught by him, to give it a fair start.

Before the machine is shipped, I would be very glad if it could be seen by our friend Mr. Field, and that he might see how it works. You will please make an appointment with him, to suit his leisure. We will write to him on the subject.

You will let me know when & by what vessel the machine has been sent, so that I may be ready to procure its pass through our Custom House, duty free.

I will thank you also to effect a marine insurance on the full value, and charge me with the cost; unless it be forwarded by an Express Company which takes all liability.

(Signed) Yours truly &c
H B Lindenwalt
Director

B. F. Stevens Esq.
No. 7 Henrietta St.
Covent Garden
London

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Philadelphia
May 2, 1867

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H. R. Linderman
Director